

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177583
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177583

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMB. PICKERING FROM NEA/ARN, DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN FY 75 FMS CREDIT

REF: AMMAN 4250

1. I AM NOT SURPRISED YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT STATE 172365, WHICH WAS AIMED AT FORESTALLING A MUCH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM. AMONG OTHER THINGS I HAVE NOT BRIEFED YOU ABOUT WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT TREASURY HAD INTENDED TO INFORM THE SAUDIS OF THE JORDANIAN PAYMENT WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT MAKING CLEAR WE EXPECTED THE SAUDIS TO PAY THE DOLS 1.7 MILLION AND ALL FUTURE PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL. FFB LEGAL COUNSEL NOW ADVISES THAT SAUDIS MUST RPT MUST BE INFORMED OF JORDANIAN STEP.

2. OUR PRESENT THINKING IS EITHER TO HAVE EMBASSY JIDDA
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OR FFB, IN ANSWER TO A CABLE FROM SAMA, INFORM THE SAUDIS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, EXPLAIN THE NEED TO AVOID DEFULT, BUT THEN DESCRIBE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SAUDIS HAVE AGREED TO PAY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AND THAT JORDAN HAS BEEN ONLY THE NOMINAL DEBTOR. WE WOULD MAKE CLEAR WE EXPECT THE SAUDIS TO PAY THE JUNE 30 PAYMENT AND ALL FUTURE PAYMENTS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

3. BADLY HANDLED OR NOT, A HOST OF ACTORS HAS BEEN IN THIS ACT, AND ALL COMPLICATIONS RESULTING THEREFROM CANNOT BE DESCRIBED. A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT, IN CONTRAST TO FY 1976 GUARANTEE, SOME RPT SOME SAUDIS MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THEY ARE PRIMARY DEBTOR FOR 1975 PROGRAM. VANCE

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